

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 INSE-00 SR-02 SCA-01

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RSC-01 SP-02 /063 W

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R 141704Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2434

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 8894

GENEVA FOR CARLIN

FRANKFURT FOR INS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, BE

SUBJECT: EX-SOVIET JEWS IN BELGIUM; RAV TOV VISIT

REF: SHIRLEY/NAVEZ TELECON NOV 12

1. RABBIS CHAIM STAUBER AND HERGL FRANKEL, REPRESENTING BROOKLYN, NEW YORK BASED (NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO AID NEW IMMIGRANTS) VISITED EMBASSY ON FACT-FINDING MISSION NOV 14. THEY EXPLAINED RAV TOV'S PURPOSE AS ASSISTING JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO US WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT, HOUSING AND EDUCATION. THEY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN HELPING TO EXPEDITE ONWARD MOVEMENT TO US OF THOSE REFUGEES NOW IN BELGIUM WHO WANT TO GO THERE. THEY SAID THEY ARE DISTURBED THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WAS NOT HELPING IN THESE CASES, WHICH LEFT THE REFUGEES IN A SPIRITUAL VACUUM. RABBI STAUBER'S BROTHER, MR. S. STAUBER, WHO RESIDES IN ANTWERP AND

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ACCOMPANIED OTHERS, OFFERED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF RAV TOV IN BELGIUM.

2. RAV TOV REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY HAD ALSO VISITED AUSTRIA AND DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF EX-SOVIET JEWISH EMMIGRANTS WITH CHANCELLOR/KREI SHKY AND HOPED TO PURSUE ISSUE WITH HIGHEST LEVELS OF DEPARTMENT AND IN CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES.

3. IT WAS APPARENT RAV TOV REPS HAD NO UNDERSTANDING OF US REFUGEE PROGRAM OR US IMMIGRATION LAWS AND PROCEDURES. THESE WERE EXPLAINED TO THEM IN DETAIL. EXPLANATION APPEARED TO REASSURE THEM CONSIDERABLY THAT USG WAS DOING ALL POSSIBLE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE ON HUMANITARIAN BASIS TO ASSIST THE 700-800 EX-SOVIET JEWS NOW IN BELGIUM. IT WAS OBVIOUS IN EARLY STAGES OF DISCUSSION THAT SOME OF THE FEARS OF PERSECUTION EXPRESSED BY THE REFUGEES HAD INFLUENCED THEM. THESE LARGELY UNFOUNDED FEARS WERE PUT IN PERSPECTIVE FOR THE RAV TOV REPRESENTATIVES. WE ANSWERED THEIR OFFER OF ASSISTANCE BY TELLING THEM THAT THEIR HELP MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE VOLAGS IN BELGIUM AND THAT THEY MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS WHAT ASSISTANCE THEY COULD OFFER WITH OFFICE OF REFUGEES AND MIGRATION IN DEPARTMENT AND DIRECTLY WITH CARITAS AND TOLSTOY HERE. FIRESTONE

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